

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

### 12 MRSA § 1891-B. Reporting

Public Law, Chapter 146 of the 123rd Legislature established reporting requirements for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway as follows:

The commissioner shall report on or before March 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over conservation matters regarding the state of the waterway, including its mission and goals, administration, education and interpretive programs, historic preservation efforts, visitor use and evaluation, ecological conditions and any natural character enhancements, general finances, income, expenditures and balance of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Permanent Endowment Fund, the department's annual budget request for the waterway operation in the coming fiscal year and current challenges and prospects for the waterway.

This document contains our report for 2009. We invite you to read about our progress and accomplishments.



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## Policy, Mission and Goals

The AWW Act of 1966 contains the following statutory policy language:

### §1871. Declaration of policy

Whereas the preservation, protection and development of the natural scenic beauty and the unique character of our waterways, wildlife habitats and wilderness recreation resources for this generation and all succeeding generations; the prevention of erosion, droughts, freshets and the filling up of waters; and the promotion of peace, health, morals and general welfare of the public are the concern of the people of this State, the Legislature declares it to be in the public interest, for the public benefit and for the good order of the people of this State to establish an area known as the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

### Allagash Wilderness Waterway Draft Strategic Plan:

The AWW Advisory Council presented a draft strategic plan for review by the full council and Bureau of Parks & Lands at their September 25, 2009 meeting. The draft plan remains open for discussion and revision by the council. Once the council has reached agreement on the plan it will be presented to the public for comment scheduled for early 2010. The Bureau of Parks & Lands will use the strategic plan as a guide for the renewal of the 1999 AWW management plan.

The following mission statement and guiding principals have been used as a basis for formulating the draft AWW Strategic Plan:

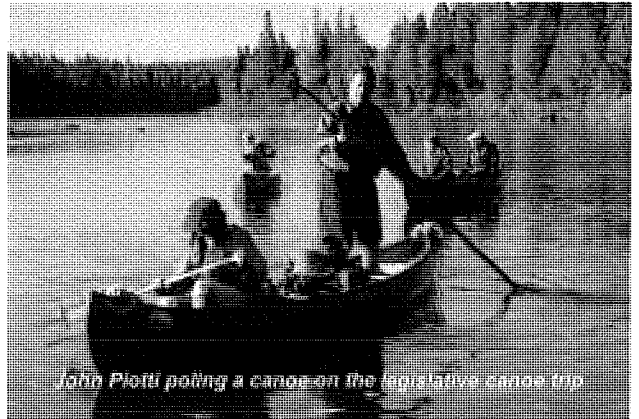
*Preserve, protect and develop the maximum wilderness character of the Watercourse and Restricted Zone and ensure its ecological integrity and optimum public use through careful management as a wilderness area in the historical and modern context of a working forest.*

### Guiding Principals:

- *Priority is placed on providing a memorable wilderness recreation experience to its primary users, the canoeists and fishermen.*
- *The rich history, culture and traditions of the Allagash River contribute to its uniqueness, and will be preserved and interpreted as an asset to the Waterway and its visitors.*
- *The Maximum Wilderness Character of the Watercourse and Restricted Zone is fundamental to the purposes of the Waterway under founding state statutes and the federal wild river designation, and is central to state administration and management.*
- *The Watercourse and Restricted Zone shall be managed in accordance with wilderness management principles. Adjustments shall be made to address legislative mandates and to facilitate preservation of historical features and traditions that enrich the Waterway and visitor experience.*
- *Broader Waterway purposes of ecological integrity, viewsheds, wildlife management and wilderness recreation and character of the 1/4 and 1-mile zones shall be pursued in partnership with timber landowners.*

**2009 AWW Advisory Council:** Don Hudson, Wiscasset (Chair); Don Nicoll, Portland; Don Cyr, Lille; Anthony Hourihan, Fort Kent; Bob McIntosh, NPS; Janet McMahon, Waldoboro; Dick Walthers, Otisfield.

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council met formally four times in sessions that were open to the public and included opportunities for public comment: September 26, 2008, January 9, 2009, April 30, 2009 and May 22, 2009. In addition, a work session with Bureau of Parks and Lands staff was conducted on September 25, 2009 that was open to the public, but did not include an opportunity for public comment. The latter meeting focused exclusively on fine-tuning the language of the first Strategic Plan, a provision and requirement of the AWW Advisory Council legislation.



John Pletti poling a canoe on the legislative canoe trip

The potential sale of the Lock Dam Lot, the only land not owned by the state within the Restricted Zone of the AWW was a topic of major interest and concern throughout the year. The AWW Advisory Council had an opportunity to share concerns with the Bureau about a variety of specific issues related to identifying important parcels for acquisition, particularly within the Restricted and One-mile Zones, and in developing strategies and plans for acquisition.

Whereas the first year of the life of the AWW Advisory Council was spent in developing a mission and guiding principles, this second year has been spent in writing the first Strategic Plan for the AWW.

**Allagash Wilderness Waterway - FY09 Expenditure Report - for the period July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009**

**EXPENDITURES FROM OTHER ACCOUNTS FOR**

<b>Expenses - FY09</b>	<b>AWW Account (dedicated revenue)</b>	<b>General Fund (dedicated revenue)</b>	<b>Loon Account (dedicated revenue)</b>	<b>Donations (dedicated revenue)</b>	<b>Poland Spring (dedicated revenue)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Salary and Benefits		403,452.92				403,452.92
Professional Services		330.00			2,416.00	2,746.00
Gas (for equipment)		10,641.43	723.85		4,522.62	15,887.90
Lodging, Meals, Mileage		2,360.58	76.00			2,436.58
Other utilities		18.80				18.80
Rent of Land	600.00					600.00
Rental of State Vehicle			24,339.77		2,628.80	26,968.57
Repair - Equipment	413.16	10.51	4,013.38			4,437.05
Repair - Boats			1,106.22			1,106.22
Repair - Roads and Grounds	4,251.30	73.70	816.48			5,141.48
Repair - Buildings	1,262.36	103.60	5,805.33			7,171.29
Repair - Misc.	164.66		1,013.49			1,178.15
Trash Removal		45.50	40.00			85.50
Snow plowing		61.63				61.63
General Operations		1,898.32	400.00		208.33	2,506.65
Food	118.32	443.79			69.56	631.67
L.P. Gas		1,658.80	6,590.17			8,248.97
Fuel Oil		202.56	92.49			295.05
Firewood			1,052.00			1,052.00
Misc Supplies & Minor Office Equip		1,279.21	4,845.75	15.75	3,824.54	9,965.25
Clothing		437.74				437.74
Pinter		69.99				69.99
Equipment (garage shop equip)		1,450.00			1,700.00	3,150.00
Grants to Public/Private Orgs.					23,000.00	23,000.00
Administrative Charges*	772.95		5,979.30	1.74	1,949.45	8,703.44
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,582.75</b>	<b>424,539.08</b>	<b>56,894.23</b>	<b>17.49</b>	<b>40,319.30</b>	<b>529,352.85</b>

**CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/09      70,171.38**

\* Includes total of STA-CAP and DI-CAP on all expenditures and late fees.

## AWW Budget

Current Maine law does not provide separate budgets for individual parks, regions, or the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Instead, appropriations from the General Fund and other Revenue Sources are allocated internally by the Bureau to programs and geographic regions. In this planning effort, a separate allocation has been established for operating expenses within the AWW. This allocation does not consider Personal Services (salaries and benefits) or capital expenses. FY 09 The allocated budget was \$76,500.00

<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>FY-10 Q1</b>	<b>FY-10 Q2</b>	<b>FY-10 Q3</b>	<b>FY-10 Q4</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Fund	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$21,000	\$106,000

### Notes:

- Allocations are based on past expenditures and allocations.
- Some fixed costs (uniforms, fleet operations, etc.) were formerly charged to the Northern Region.

## Revenue

The Bureau of Parks and Lands collects fees for AWW camping use, relying mostly on a contract with North Maine Woods, Inc. for fee collection services. The table below shows a history of fees collected, based on fiscal year reporting (July 1 – June 30).

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Revenues from Fees</b>
2005	52,788.55
2006	78,478.71
2007	56,588.45
2008	75,014.81
<b>2009</b>	<b>94,730.58</b>

### Note:

These figures represent gross receipts less contractual fees for collection and other deductions.

From revenues received from camping fees, Maine law requires that a portion of that amount be set aside in a non-lapsing account to be used for capital improvements in the AWW. The table below shows the calculated revenue to this special account.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Revenue to AWW Account</b>
2005	20,616.38
2006	20,774.00
2007	20,094.21
2008	20,894.00
<b>2009</b>	<b>53,107.83</b>

### Notes:

- These figures represent transfers from camping fee receipts.

## Recreation

Recreational use of the AWW increased for the second year in a row over the 2007 historic low. The 2009 camping use represents a 3.8% increase over camping nights in 2008.

The table below shows a five year history of AWW recreational use.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Camping Days</b>	<b>Sporting Camp Days</b>	<b>Day Use</b>	<b>Total Visitor Days</b>
2005	1,343	5,103	22,931	3,253	878	27,062
2006	1,200	4,811	21,717	2,376	825	24,918
2007	938	3,863	17,692	1,149	953	19,784
2008	1,140	4,469	19,979	2,223	648	22,850
<b>2009</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>4,577</b>	<b>20,798</b>	<b>2,664</b>	<b>1907</b>	<b>25,386</b>

## Oversize Group Permits

There are currently 4 organizations permitted to have oversize groups on the Waterway. Thru registered use by the organizations, the size of the party has decreased to a maximum size of 18.

In 2009 there were 7 permits issued.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Exempt Organiza- tions</b>	<b>Permits Issued</b>
1995	7	13
1996	7	10
1997	6	12
1998	6	10
1999	6	9
2000	6	8
2001	5	9
2002	5	8
2003	4	6
2004	4	8
2005	4	7
2006	4	8
2007	4	6
2008	4	6
<b>2009</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

### Endowment Fund

In 2007 the legislature established the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Permanent Endowment Fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide an interest bearing account for gifts that are dedicated to the AWW. It is contemplated that the interest on the account will someday supplement programs in the waterway.

Title 12 section 1890-B; The Treasurer of State shall establish a dedicated, nonlapsing account called the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Permanent Endowment Fund and shall manage the account as a state-held trust. Subject to the approval of the Governor, the commissioner may accept funds from any source and may accept gifts in trust to be credited to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Permanent Endowment Fund, except that a gift may not be accepted with any encumbrances or stipulations as to the use of the gift. Interest earned on investments in the fund must be credited to the fund. With the advice of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council under section 1890-A, the director may expend money from the fund for purposes consistent with section 1871 and an approved waterway management plan.

In September 2009 while on the legislative canoe trip, John Piotti, House Majority Leader, donated the first \$100.00 dedicated to the AWW Endowment Fund. A subsequent donation of \$93.00 was donated by guides (Greg Shute and Dot Lamson) on the same trip. The total deposited into the AWW Endowment fund in 2009 was \$193.00.



### Proposed Rule Change

During the 2009 legislative session the Bureau of Parks and Lands was directed by the Maine Legislature to amend AWW rules defining the size and shape of watercraft allowed to be used on the waterway. The purpose of the rule change is to revise Allagash Wilderness Waterway rules to specifically allow kayaks and define a kayak. This will allow the use of shorter, wider modern kayaks while retaining traditional methods of travel on the AWW. Kayaks would be allowed in all areas of the AWW that are now restricted to canoes only without motors or motors not exceeding 10 HP. The proposed definition of a Kayak may change slightly as the proposal proceeds through the rule making process.

**The proposed definition of a kayak:** A kayak is defined as a form of small watercraft, long and narrow, sharp on both ends, usually propelled by a double-bladed paddle in a sitting position, and having no sails. It usually has a covered deck, a cockpit covered by a spray-deck and/or skirt, and may be equipped with a small rudder. The width at the widest point shall not exceed 25% of the craft's overall length. Measurement shall be the outside of the hull but shall not include gunwales, rub rails, or spray rails, if any.

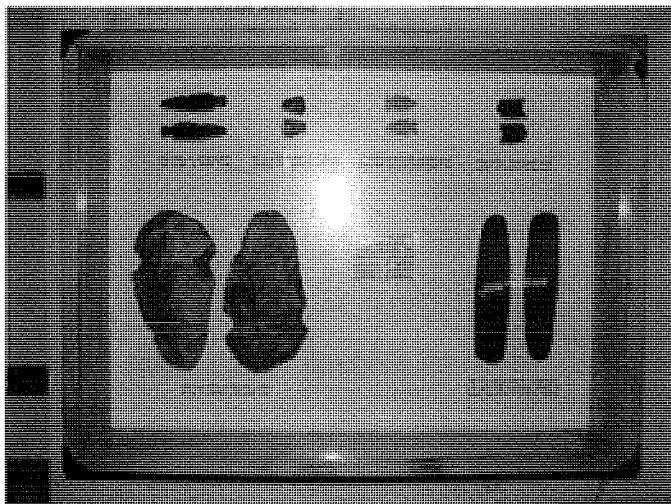
### Education, Interpretation, and Historic Preservation

The AWW staff continues to support and promote the historical aspects of the Allagash Waterway by collecting interpreting and displaying artifacts found by themselves, as well as, park visitors. Some recent additions to the Churchill Depot History Center are Paleo-Indian tools, a school chair on loan from the Paquet family, and an 1850 coin found by a young visitor on Long Lake.

Locations of historical significance were recorded as GPS waypoints and will be made available for administrative use and for use by the public. Small, unobtrusive interpretive signs were erected near the Tramway, the Locomotive, Lock Dam, and Telos Dam. Impromptu tours of the Eagle Lake area are given by the AWW staff.



Canadian Half-penny Found on Long Lake



Paleo-Indian Display at Churchill Depot History Center

Volunteers Gary & Milford Pelletier and AWW staff installed a cedar shingle roof on the restored building at the former Henry Taylor Camps, they also continued with junk/debris cleanup at the camps. The larger

items of junk have been put up on poles so that they will not freeze down; these items will be hauled out by snowmobile during the winter of 2009 – 2010.





### Forest Harvest notifications/applications

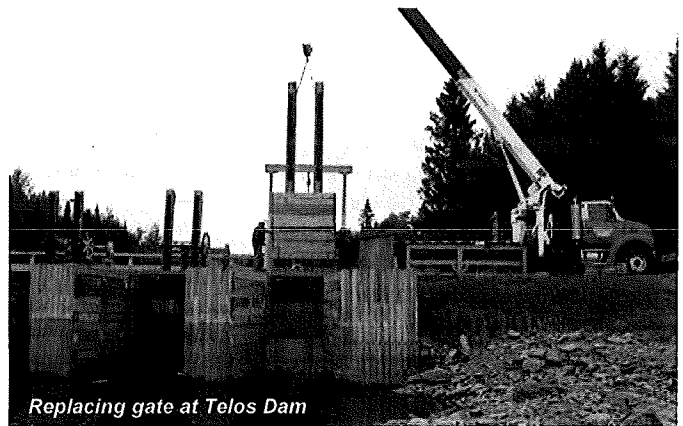
In 2009 there were 17 Forest Operations Notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Six of the FONS included applications for harvesting within a visual area of the AWW and two harvests applications to exceed the standards. Harvest notifications within a mapped visual area of the AWW required approval of the Bureau of Parks & Lands (Title 12 Chapter 220 Section 1880 6.2). All harvest locations within a mapped visual area of the waterway were visited by the Waterway Manager or Superintendent, an experienced BPL forester, and appropriate Landowner representative. All applications to harvest within a visual area were approved with conditions that minimized the visual impact of the harvest, associated skid trails and log landings. All applications to exceed harvest standards within a visual area were visited to document stand conditions and clarify that adequate regeneration was present to screen the harvest from the watercourse. Four of the FONS included new forest management road construction within the mile zone but not visible from the watercourse.

### Incidents

In 2009 there were 7 recorded "incidents" which included a logging truck accident just west of John's Bride, vandalism of a vehicle, snowmobile that broke through the ice, a stolen canoe, watercraft violation, and two medical evacuations. No courtesy warnings were issued in 2009.

### Projects accomplished by staff, volunteers and contractors in 2009

- Built and installed 20 picnic tables with tarp poles
- Reinsulated ceiling of ranger camp at Chamberlain
- Rebuilt the two buildings that burned (sauna & shed) at Jalbert's Camps
- Created fact sheets and posted at the: Trains, Tramway, Lock Dam, Telos Dam
- Re-graveled access road to parking lot at the Umsaskis Thoroughfare
- Re-graveled access roads and driveways at Churchill Dam
- Installed solar power system at AWW Headquarters, Churchill Dam
- Replaced one gate and rebuilt lifting mechanism at Telos Dam
- Completed phase one of repairs at Lock Dam (removed wooden bulkhead and dug toe) Phase two of the project (install rip-rap) was completed in January 2010
- Re-roofed and jacked up Camp Drake on Umsaskis Lake
- Had 12 soil tests done for new outhouse pits, pits to be dug during the summer of 2010
- Cleared, painted, and re-blazed 5+ miles of AWW boundary line in cooperation with abutting landowners
- Installed satellite internet at Churchill Dam



*Replacing gate at Telos Dam*



*Camp  
Drake  
(Lake  
Umsaskis)*

*Jacked up  
with new  
roof*



*Tom  
Morrison  
and  
Gary  
Pelletier  
at Jalbert's  
Camps.*

*New shed  
to replace  
one that  
burned.*



*One of Barb Pineau's beautiful fireplaces at Round Pond*

## Lock Dam Repair Project

Lock Dam is located on the Eastern shore of Chamberlain Lake. It is a 248 foot-long earthen dam constructed over an existing wood crib dam by a former owner. The dam was donated to the state of Maine by Bangor Hydro. Older construction drawings indicate that it had been rebuilt several times. The wood facing, most recently being replaced in 1982, had deteriorated, and due to rotten underpinnings, several sections had broken away, exposing the earthen structure to ice damage.

In the spring of 2009, following reports of significant degradation of Lock Dam, several people, including volunteers with engineering expertise and employees from both IF&W and DOC inspected recent ice damage and determined that repairs must be made prior to the 2010 spring flooding and ice movement or the dam could be breached.

Several donations helped make repairs possible; including \$10,000 cash from Lock Dam Preservation LTD, and equipment time, consisting of one truck each from W.T. Gardiner and Viking Lumber. Dysarts donated fuel for the donated trucks.

The state provided cash from the AWW dedicated revenue Capital Improvements Account and proceeded to design, acquire permits, and advertised the contracting to several interested contractors. Permits were obtained from LURC and the Army Corps of Engineers. A road use permit from Katahdin Woodlands was obtained to travel over their property to the dam.



*Installing 3 siphon tubes  
to maintain flows in Martin Stream, Autumn 09*



*Ice Damage 2009*

Kleinschmidt Associates modified their 2004 design for dam repairs, based on updated information and funding availability.

Prior to the work being done, the lake level needed to be lowered. In late autumn, crews from DOC and IF&W installed a siphon consisting three six-inch temporary plastic culverts from below low water to the inlet end of the dam outlet culvert. The installation provided adequate water to maintain fish/egg habitat in the stream below the dam.

Contracting was done in three time-critical phases. The first phase was a contract with Gerald Pelletier, Inc. to clear brush on the final  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of road to the dam and prepare the dam site by installing silt fence, smoothing the existing stone face, and creating a depression to toe in the riprap. That work was done, but high water and submerged dam timbers limited the toe excavation to approximately two feet. Silt fence also could not be placed as far from the dam as desired due to the higher-than-expected water levels after prolonged rainy weather. As the result of higher water levels, all construction was done from the top of the dam, instead of from dry ground on the lake side.

A second contract with Northern Blasting, LLC, prepared the Bureau-owned bedrock source by blasting rock from a natural 25 foot high shale face at the end of a road off the Indian Pond Road. The blasting was not as successful as hoped, but the contractor agreed to return for more blasting, if necessary.

*Continued on page 8*



...continued from page 7

Unfortunately, the contractor was injured in a drilling accident, at a separate job. He could not go back to finish the blasting when the rock was needed. No other blasting companies could be on-site Monday, Jan 11, so the dam repair contractor purchased three loads of rock (delivered) from Lee Construction in East Millinocket to provide the rock necessary to complete the project.

A third contract, to accomplish the actual dam repair was awarded to low bidder Steve Renaud, d/b/a Reno's Excavation of West Bath. This contract included mining and transporting the blasted rock, and installing it at the dam. The contractor was very prompt and did a very good job to complete the work, despite having to contend with inadequate blasted rock resources.

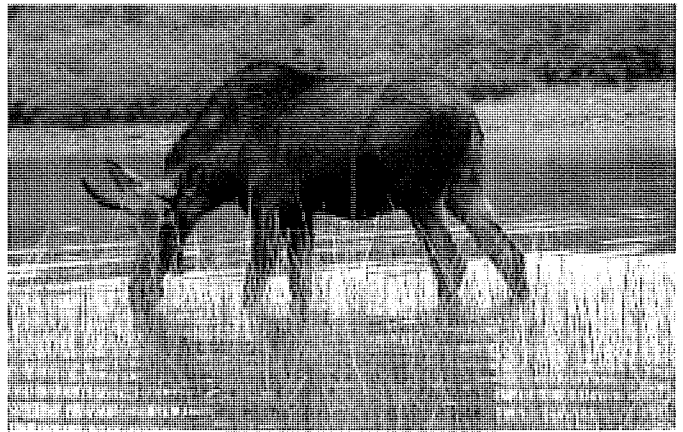
Heavy rock was installed in the first layer on top of two layers of geotextile cloth and finer rock was placed over that to chink between rocks, to provide extra protection and enhance appearance. The top of the dam was built up, as designed. The truck turnaround was loamed and mulched as was the entrance road. The result is an excellent job that should prolong the life of the dam for many years.

Renaud removed most of the steel sheeting, but a small section at the North end was retained at the direction of the engineer, due to the low ground behind it and with knowledge that seepage occurs in that area that could be exacerbated by disturbance.

Wood remaining under the stone and earth fill, some of which runs perpendicular to the dam face and under the riprap, is a possible concern. Future deterioration of the buried wood could cause leakage. The dam will be checked for any increased seepage when the water rises in the spring.



Completed Repairs – January 12, 2010



## Ecological Studies

1. Dmitry Gorsky, PhD Candidate, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Maine, Orono, continues with a whitefish study on the waterway. The following is a Lake whitefish movement project summary: and researchers from the University of Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, USGS-BRD developed a pilot study on lake whitefish movements in Clear Lake, a headwater lake of the Allagash watershed. This pilot study proved very informative and resulted in the project being extended for several more years with more study fish tagged and their movements observed. Additionally, the state biologists and researchers were interested in more information on the behavior of lake whitefish in a larger water body and replicated the study in Big Eagle, a major water body of the Allagash waterway. This portion of the project aimed to determine large scale movements throughout a large water body and what habitat was being used during the different seasons of the year

2. Cynthia S. Loftin, Ph.d. working with the University of Maine and the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is conducting a research project on the Clayton's copper butterfly, a species listed as endangered in Maine. The project is being conducted in Smith Brook Cove on Eagle Lake in Soper Mountain Township. Students Corrine Michaud and Sarah Drahovzal are collecting water, peat, plant tissue, and larvae samples during the summer and fall of 2009. The study will continue into 2010; the results of the study will be shared with the AWW.

3. Tom Faber with United States Environmental Protection Agency conducted water quality and biological sampling of the Allagash River just upstream from Henderson Brook Bridge. The sampling effort is part of a national study to report to congress on the conditions of rivers and streams throughout the United States. The study consisted of collecting water samples, conducting habitat assessment, and determining fish species presence and abundance. Five top predatory fish were retained for tissue analyses. The results of the study will be shared with the AWW when the assessment has been completed.

## Henderson Brook Bridge

Henderson Brook Bridge, originally build in the 1960's was replaced with a new concrete and steel structure during the summer of 2009. The old bridge spanned 160 feet with three piers; the new bridge is 220 feet long with two supporting piers.

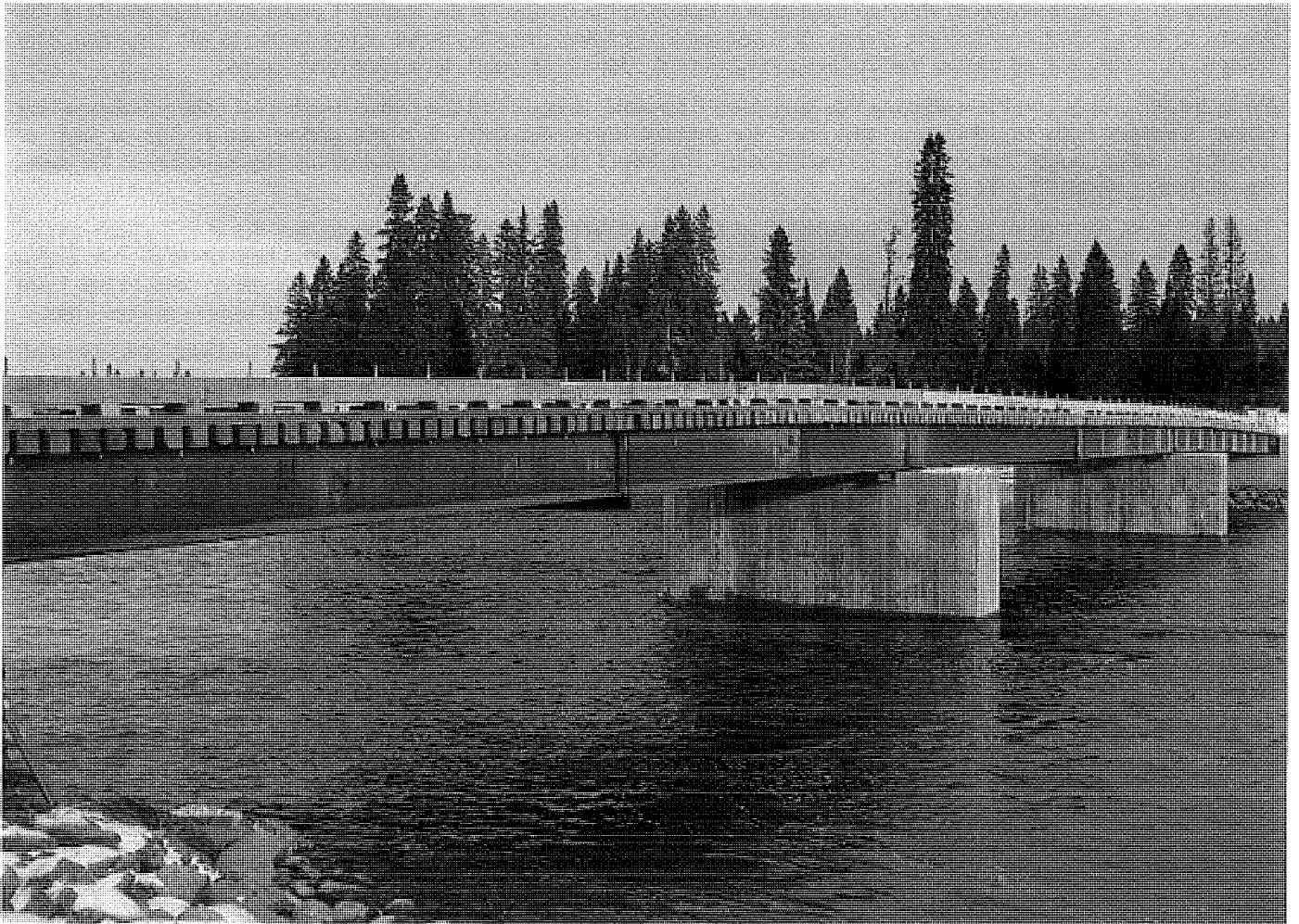
Design of the replacement bridge has been guided by the recommendations of the 2006 study commission and was approved by LURC, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Park Service. The design which moves the abutment back from the high water line and reduces the area occupied by piers provided for greater unrestricted flow of the river.

Henderson Brook Bridge is located on a key east-west road important for the movement of forest products in northern Maine. The total value of wood products transported across the bridge annually is between 7–10 million dollars. The bridge is also important to the recreational community; according to North Maine Woods, 20,000 recreational visitors cross the bridge annually.

A replacement hand-carry boat launch, wood facing on the concrete piers and abutments and vegetative planting, will be added in the spring of 2010.

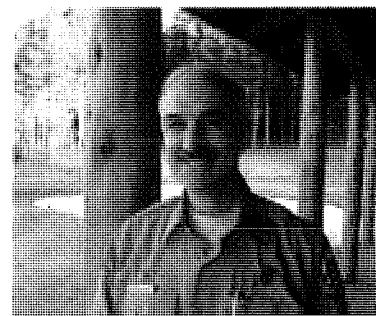


Henderson Brook Bridge "Before"



## Superintendent's Report

I found my first year as Superintendent to be a very rewarding experience. I am thankful for the support given to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) by management within the Bureau of Parks & Lands (BPL) and Department of Conservation. The field staff of the waterway was great to work with, very knowledgeable of the area, professional, and ready to assist the new Superintendent of the AWW.



I would like to report that the often turbulent waters of the Allagash seem to have calmed. Public use is up for the second year in a row but nowhere near the levels reached in the 1970's and 80's. People came to canoe the Allagash from all over the world; we had a party that came all the way from Germany to paddle the Allagash. For some in the group, it was their third voyage down the river. When I asked them what they liked about the Allagash, they replied that they enjoyed the remoteness of the area, and the organization/setup of the campsites.

The forest landowners within the mile zone of the AWW were very cooperative and respectful of the mission and goals of the waterway. I would especially like to recognize the Lands Division of BPL for assisting the AWW with recommendations for timber harvests proposed in mapped visual areas of the AWW. Their professional foresters were invaluable in providing the expertise needed to minimize the visual impact of timber harvests from the watercourse.

Commissioner Patrick McGowan organized a special legislative trip down the waterway that was attended by: House Majority Leader John Piotti, Rep. Jeff McCabe, Rep. Nancy Smith & daughter Marinna, Rep. Terry Hayes, Deputy Commissioner Elisa Townsend, myself, and Chewonki guides Greg Shute & Dottie Lamson. We had a memorable three day trip down the river and built a better understanding of the waterway with this important group of people. On the trip, John Piotti became the first person to make a donation to the AWW Endowment Fund; donating \$100.00 at Sweeney Brook Campsite in T12 R13 WELS.

In April of 2009, operation of the state-owned sporting camps at Nugent's on Chamberlain Lake changed hands. John Richardson & Regina Webster who had lived at and operated the camps for the last 20 + years sold their assets at the camps to Tom Thornton of Milford, Maine. BPL subsequently transferred the lease of the camps to Mr. Thornton. The camps will continue to be run as traditional sporting camps open to the public on a year round basis.

While traveling about on the waterway this past year, it became obvious that the native brook trout fishery is flourishing above Allagash Falls (muskellunge and bass are present below the falls). It is not uncommon to see or hear of 'brookies' being caught that are over 20 inches long. The trout I saw and caught were all healthy specimens, the average fish being about 12 – 14 inches long.

This past year, we logged over 1508 volunteer hours for the AWW. We had the traditional Boy Scout and youth camps donate time clearing brush and making campsite improvements. Chianbro Corp. donated the help of three men and a large crane truck to help change gates in the historic timber crib dam at Telos. The non-profit group called Lock Dam Preservation LTD headed up by Rick Denico raised and donated \$10,000+ dollars for significant repairs at Lock Dam.

During my first year on the AWW, I emphasized that I wanted the staff to be friendly, helpful, and less officious than they may have been in the past and provided them with suggestions on how to do that using my experience from 32 years of ranger work. They seemed to embrace this philosophy and we had very few complaints in 2009. In fact, we received several letters complimenting the staff for help they had been provided and/or the condition of facilities within the waterway. We also made some subtle changes to improve the wilderness character of the AWW such as reducing the number of signs, painting ranger camp window trim green, moving propane tanks behind buildings and out of sight, and reducing the motor size on waterway canoes to less than 10 hp consistent with rules that regulate public use.

I worked as an Assistant Ranger/Ranger in the waterway from 1976 – 1986 and have a few anecdotal observations that I would like to share. I found that the wilderness character of the AWW has improved from what it was in the mid 1980's. There are fewer buildings within the restricted zone, **fewer access points**, campsites are more screened from the view of passing canoeists, there are fewer aircraft landings, and there are fewer people using the Waterway. Animal/bird sightings, especially moose, are abundant when traveling on all sections of the Waterway.

I would like to thank the AWW crew for their hard work, dedication and service to the public. I'm grateful to the Parks Northern Region clerical, maintenance, and administrative staff for their support of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Without their help, the accomplishments of the past year would not have been possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Matthew LaRoche**  
Superintendent  
Allagash Wilderness Waterway

## Allagash Wilderness Waterway 2009

### Maine Department of Conservation:

Patrick McGowan, Commissioner  
Eliza Townsend, Deputy Commissioner

### Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands:

Will Harris, Director  
Thomas Morrison, Director of Operations  
Matthew LaRoche, AWW Superintendent

### Northern Region Support Staff:

Ron Cyr, Engineering Technician  
Russell Scott, Maintenance Coordinator  
Heidi Johnson, Staff Assistant  
Beverly Richardson, Staff Assistant



**Allagash Wilderness Waterway Staff**

#### **Front, left to right:**

Trevor O'Leary, Allagash Ranger  
Tom Coon, Allagash Ranger  
Jay Young, Allagash Ranger  
Meredith Podgurski, Allagash Ranger

#### **Rear, left to right:**

Matthew LaRoche, Superintendent  
Patrick Emery, Allagash Ranger  
Barb Pineau, Assistant Ranger  
Kevin Brown, Chief Ranger  
Peter Kick, Assistant Ranger  
*Chase Jackson Assistant Ranger (not present)*  
*Erik Ahlquist, Assistant Ranger (not present)*  
*Hope Kelly, CRA1 (not present)*  
*Churchill Dam Assistant Ranger (vacant)*

**Staff training** includes regular staff meetings and special training focusing on operational needs and as required for safety and Human Resource requirements. Training in 2009 included:

- Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation
- Boating Safety
- Lake Monitoring training and recertification
- Human Resources Training
- Chainsaw Safety
- Computer Training (Access)

## Administration

Section 6 of Public Law, Chapter 136 stipulates that the "Department of Conservation shall administer and manage the Allagash Wilderness Waterway as a separate region within the Bureau of Parks and Lands." Following this directive, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

- The department has reorganized positions within the AWW to provide a Waterway Superintendent and a Chief Ranger, who oversee administrative and supervisory duties respectively.
- Administrative support services continue to be provided from the Bangor office (human resources, accounts payable, information and promotion, the AWW Store, and maintenance support) These are services tracked separately from other functions.

## Current Publications:

*(free, unless otherwise noted)*

- **NORTHRUNNER** documentary film (\$15.00)
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway brochure (informational brochure)
- Rules and Regulations for Recreational Use of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway
- AWW Special Fees, Tips for Visitors, and more (informational brochure)
- Temporary Canoe Storage on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (brochure and tag)
- The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Souvenir Store (brochure)
- AWW Color map (souvenir brochure) (\$2.00)
- AWW Decal (\$2.00)
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway Visitor Survey (2003) (while supplies last)

**Allagash**  
WILDERNESS WATERWAY

### Administrative offices:

106 Hogan Road, Bangor, Maine, USA 04401-5640  
Telephone: 207-941-4014 Fax: 207-941-4222  
Website: [www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)

### Superintendent offices:

PO Box 1107, Greenville, Maine, USA 04441  
Telephone: 207-695-3721

